

THE BOOK THIEF ~ Part 1: THE GRAVE DIGGER'S HANDBOOK

Name:

Answer all questions in complete sentences and properly incorporate quotes when necessary.

BEAUTIFUL WORDS: As you read, you will come across beautiful sentences, descriptions, and quotes. Use this area to write the quotes that you find meaningful and magical. Write at least three quotes from part 1 and include page #.

“Arrival on Himmel Street” (19-29)

SETTING: Liesel, her brother, and her mother are travelling on a train in Germany, 1939.

- 1) What color is the sky? What do you think this symbolizes? (19)

- 2) How old is Liesel? _____ What year is it? _____

- 3) What do you know about Liesel's education?

- 4) How does Death describe Liesel's brothers soul?

- 5) On pp. 22-23, Death makes an observation and asks, “The question is, what if the *other* is a lot more than one?” What does Death mean by “the other” and what additional meaning can this have?

- 6) What does Liesel steal? Why might she do this? (THINK!)

- 7) Why are the Memingers on the train and what is their destination?

- 8) How does Death describe Himmel street? (Use a quote in your answer)

- 9) Identify and describe Liesel's foster parents.

10) What literary device does Zusak use to close this chapter? What might you infer from this final sentence?

“Growing Up a Saumensch” (30-35)

- 1) How many books make up the story of Liesel’s life?
- 2) How does Death’s admitted preoccupation with color show itself in this chapter?
- 3) Describe Liesel.
- 4) What single fact does Liesel know about her father?
- 5) Why does Liesel’s mother give her up?
- 6) Describe Rosa and Hans in detail. Include quotes and what you can infer based on those:

ROSA:

HANS:

- 7) Which parent does Liesel bond with more easily? Why?

“The Woman with the Iron Fist” (36-45)

- 1) What does the narrator mean about Hans and his “thereness”?
- 2) How does the accordion help Liesel?
- 3) Why is the Grave Digger’s Handbook so important to Liesel?
- 4) What makes school so hard for Liesel? Find a quote that shows her feelings.

5) What are your thoughts on Rosa?

“The Kiss” (46-55)

1) Briefly identify and describe the following characters:

RUDY STEINER:

TOMMY MULLER:

PFFIFIKUS:

FRAU DILLER:

Be sure to note any special connection to Liesel.

2) What is Schiller Strasse?

“The Jesse Owens Incident (56-61)

1) What seems so strange about Hitler’s reaction to Jesse Owens?

2) What did Rudy do to show his appreciation for Jesse OWens?

3) What is Rudy’s father trying to make Rudy understand when he tells Rudy that he should be happy he has blond hair and blue eyes?

4) Death makes some commentary on Rudy;s father on pp. 59-60. What is meant by “an itch in his heart”?

“The Other Side of Sandpaper (62-68)

1) What event led to Liesel’s bedwetting? How does this single incident become a defining moment in her life?

2) How do words begin to take on more and more significance here?

“The Smell of Friendship” (69-72)

1) Where does Papa take Liesel for their reading lessons? How does he get Mama to agree?

2) Why does Hans like to go to the river?

3) How does papa use the basement for his instruction?

4) What elements blend together to create the “smell of friendship?”

“The Heavyweight Champion of the School Yard” (73-80)

1) According to Death, what two important events occur in September-November 1939? Why does Death list them under the same heading?

2) How does Papa react to the latest news? Explain what his reaction means.

3) What event in the classroom sets up the school yard antagonism?

4) On the way home, “among the falling chunks of rain.” Liesel breaks down and is overcome with emotion. How does Rudy respond?

5) What literary device does Zusak use at the final line of this chapter to describe Liesel’s future use of words? Explain how this functions here at the end of Part 1.